

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee

First, we want to thank everyone on the House Committee for Federal and State Affairs for your service to Kansas. We believe your role as our representatives is more important than ever in protecting our freedoms and liberty from a dysfunctional federal government that seeks to take them away. You are “our voice” to fight against this tyranny.

We hope this testimony will provide you with a clear picture of how urgent we feel this matter is. We are angry, discouraged, and afraid of what is taking place in our country. The federal government is spending this country into the ground, seizing power from the states, and taking liberty from the people. We live in constant fear and anxiety waiting for the next unconstitutional shoe to drop.

We are, however, encouraged that our founding fathers had the incredible foresight to anticipate that someday future Americans would once again face the same tyrannical overreach. They understood human nature and its thirst for power. And they knew that government would never self-limit its power. Thankfully, they provided us a mechanism, Article V in the constitution which allows states to propose amendments to address the enormous challenges we are facing today. As Kansans, WE WANT A VOICE in this amendment process!

We love this great country, but we are watching in horror at the many examples of abuse, corruption, and overreach by our federal government:

- Our national debt is over \$31 TRILLION! This is unsustainable. This will enslave our children and grandchildren. This irresponsible spending by both parties in our federal government has resulted in a huge spike in inflation, job loss and rising interest rates. The government cannot tax its way out of this debt. **We NEED an amendment to address fiscal restraints!**
- Career politicians become more loyal to donors and special interest groups than their constituents they are supposed to be working for. Term limits are the only realistic way to change the culture of legislative careerism in Congress -- a culture that undermines the public interest. **We NEED an amendment to impose term limits!**
- Let us ask you, our representatives, a question. The last time you signed a contract, i.e., a mortgage contract, business loan, employment contract.... did you read it before signing it? Why is it ok for our federal government to pass a \$1.7 TRILLION Omnibus bill without reading it? They have been passing bills like this for years. WE HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW WHAT IS IN THESE BILLS. PERIOD. Hidden in these bills are earmarks with strings attached. They combine grants with federal mandates giving themselves more control over the states. **We NEED an amendment to restrain the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.**
- Federal mandates such as Covid lockdowns and vaccines are a clear example of government overreach. We now know that vaccines were ineffective and harmful according to the CDC. The lockdowns needlessly destroyed businesses, were harmful to our children’s education and damaged our economy, leading to even more government spending. This was a painful lesson to learn, and we can’t ever let this happen again. **We NEED an amendment to restrain the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.**
- The federal bureaucracy has placed a regulatory burden on businesses and individuals. Very little accountability exists when agencies, rather than Congress, determine regulations and penalties. **We NEED an amendment to restrain the power and jurisdiction of the federal government.**

In closing, we could continue with example after example of why Kansas needs to pass HCR5008, but we know your time is valuable and we trust that you will represent the almost 41,000 COS petition signers in Kansas. Please help us get our country back on course by using this valuable tool that our founders provided the states.